AFFORESTATION SCHEME IN GULBARGA

70. Sri PRABHAKAR TELKER (Kalgi).—

Will the Minister for Agriculture and Forests be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether there is any scheme for afforestation in Gulbarga ;

(*b*) if so, the extent of land to be taken up for afforestation and the estimated costs and approximate number of trees to be planted ;

(*c*) the extent of existing forest area in Gulbarga District as compared to Bidar and Raichur District ?

Sri K. H. PATIL (Minister for Agriculture and Forests).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Planting and sowing has been under taken during over 1972-73. 2,188.08 acres.

Estimated cost .. Rs. 64,457

Approximate number of seedlings to be planted. 17,95,594 plants.

(*c*) Gulbarga District .. 268.74 Sq. Miles.

Bidar District .. 85.60 Sq. Miles.

Raichur District .. 254.40 Sq. Miles.

Sri PRABHAKAR TELKER.—In reply to (*c*) you have stated that the area to be aforested in Gulbarga District is 268.74 Sq. Miles ; in Bidar District it is 85.60 Sq. Miles ; and in Raichur District 254.40 Sq. Miles. In view of the failure of rains in these areas is it not necessary to increase this area for aforestation and whether the Government has thought over it ?

† Sri K. H. PATIL.—In the opinion of the Government it is quite essential and instruction have already been issued in this behalf. If the hon. Member co-operates to increase the area I will certainly take up as much as possible.

Sri V. N. PATIL.—In addition to increasing the aforestation, I would like to know, whether any protection is being given for the existing forests where heavy forest felling and smuggling of wood is taking place particularly in Chincholi taluk and adjoining areas thousands of rupees worth of wood is being smuggled. What steps the Government have taken to protect the existing forests and to check smuggling of wood ?

Sri K. H. PATIL.—So far as this Government is concerned the smugglers have been controlled effectively and more effective measures will be taken because it is the desire of the Government that no smuggling should be there.

Sri PRABHAKAR TELKER.—In Bidar taluk so many forest trees have been cut down and the land is being cultivated by the agriculturists. Has this come to the notice of the Government ?

Sri K. H. PATIL.—I do not know whether it is being cultivated by agriculturists. But it is true that in certain areas complaints have been received with regard to encroachments. I have already issued instructions that the encroachers should be evicted.

GRANT OF CULTIVABLE LAND IN HASSAN CONSTITUENCY.

98. Sri K. H. HANUME GOWDA (Hassan).—

Will the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the extent of cultivable land (in acres) available in Shanthigram, Kasaba and Kattaya Hoblies of Hassan Constituency ;

(*b*) the number of persons who have sent their application for grant of land from the above Hoblies ;

(*c*) the number of persons to whom the land is granted during the last three years and the Hoblies to which they belong ?

Sri N. HUTCHAMASTHY GOWDA (Minister for Revenue).—

(*a*)	*Acres*	*Guntas*
Shantigram ..	3771	23
Kasaba ..	526	02
Kattaya ..	514	34
Total extent of area ..	4812	19

(*b*) Shantigram	686
Kasaba	370
Kattaya	329
Total persons	1385